

This decision flies in the face of prior rulings of the Supreme Court that struck down laws and ballot initiatives that place extra burdens on the ability of minorities to participate on equal footing in the political process.

Also Mr. Speaker, let me add my voice to that of the President and so many other persons of goodwill in denouncing the racist and offensive comments of Clippers owner Donald Sterling. His remarks have no place in our society and are beneath contempt.

It is particularly unfortunate that these despicable remarks were made by an owner of an NBA franchise because the NBA has been leading the way in showing the world that America's diversity is its greatest strength and asset.

NBA teams are comprised of athletes from every race and background who work hard and in common purpose to achieve the shared goal of winning championship and thrilling their fans, who can be found on every continent of the globe. As an economic engine, the NBA generates billions of dollars to the national and local economy.

Americans do not disrespect or disparage African, Asian, South American, or European basketball stars because of their ethnicity or country of origin. They welcome them.

Nigeria's Akeem Olajuwon, China's Yao Ming, Dkembe Mutombo from the Democratic Republic of the Congo are still revered in my home city of Houston.

I am encouraged by the announcement of NBA Commissioner Silver that the league and its owners take this matter very seriously and I am confident will take appropriate action to make it clear that when it comes to racism, the NBA has a zero-tolerance policy.

But last week we are unfortunately reminded that 50 years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 there is still much work to be done in perfecting our union.

It is perhaps not a coincidence that the offensive comments of Donald Sterling and Cliven Bundy were made by persons who came of age during the pre-Civil Rights era and that their views are not shared by the vast majority of their children's and grandchildren's generation. Diversity in education has been indispensable in this transformation.

That is why the decision in Schuette by the Supreme Court upholding Michigan's anti-affirmative action initiative is so unfortunate.

The Court's decision perpetuates the direct harm to African-American, Hispanic, and Native American students and inflicts indirect harm to all other students, including those admitted as alumni legatees, which is just a disguised affirmative action program for the affluent.

They are all harmed is because as Justice Sotomayor pointed out in her powerful dissent, the Court's ruling handicaps Michigan's public colleges and universities in providing the campus diversity that "ensures the next generation moves beyond the stereotypes, the assumptions, and the superficial perceptions that students coming from less-heterogeneous communities may harbor, consciously or not, about people who do not look like them."

Mr. Speaker, America is a nation moving into the future. Our diversity gives us the unique opportunity to compete and win in a globalized economy.

But to realize that future, we must leave behind the long discredited beliefs and attitudes of the Donald Sterlings and Cliven Bundys of this world.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF
WILLIAM "BILL" BLAIR, JR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of William "Bill" Blair, Jr., a talented Negro Leagues pitcher who became a voice for Dallas' African-American community. His passing on April 20, 2014 leaves a void in the city Dallas, and I join with the Texas community in giving our condolences to the Blair family.

Mr. Blair attended Booker T. Washington High School, where he played football and met his wife of 70 years, Mozelle Jordan. He went on to continue his studies at Prairie View A&M University and later enlisted to fight in World War II. In 1945, Mr. Blair became the youngest black sergeant to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Mr. Blair, a Negro Leagues Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, pitched from 1946 to 1951, for teams including the Indianapolis Clowns and Cincinnati Crescents, and was a player-manager for the Dallas Black Giants. He was instrumental in the development of the African American Museum's Texas Sports Hall of Fame and served on its advisory board. He was also inducted in 1996 as a member of its inaugural class.

After his baseball career, Mr. Blair founded the Highlight News which ran from 1947–1957. He also later founded the Southwest Sports News, a newspaper that specialized in publishing scores from Black college games throughout the United States. The paper was renamed The Elite News in 1960, and is still in publication today, serving as the official voice of the church and the community.

As a civil rights activist for more than 50 years, Blair was instrumental in establishing the Elite News Awards, the first local African-American awards ceremony, in 1975. In 1986, he established the first Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade in Dallas, which is now an institution in the community.

In honor of William "Bill" Blair, a pillar of the Dallas community, this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. He will be remembered as a civil rights activist, a leader of the community, and an irreplaceable figure in the history of the city of Dallas.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE
VICTIMS OF THE RWANDA GENOCIDE

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the victims of the Rwanda Genocide and to ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the twenty-year anniversary of this horrific period in our human history.

Over the course of just ninety days in 1994, extremists in the Rwandan government executed a highly organized plan to exterminate the country's entire Tutsi minority population.

Sadly, they very nearly succeeded.

Nearly one million Rwandans were killed in this horrendous conflict, and it is estimated

that over three-fourths of all Tutsis living in Rwanda in 1994 were killed before the end of the summer.

In 2010 and 2011, I traveled to Rwanda while researching my doctoral dissertation on the Rwandan Genocide.

I met the prosecutors in Arusha, Tanzania, where the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was headquartered, as well as the archivists and researchers engaged in preserving its history.

Their stories remind us all why we must recommit to ending genocide.

Today, on the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide, I ask that my colleagues join me and the people of Rwanda in honoring the victims.

May we learn from the Rwandan Genocide, and may we ensure that such atrocities are never again permitted to take place.

HONORING THE SEXUALITY INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES (SIECUS)

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) as it celebrates 50 years of advancing policies and education on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health. Founded in 1964, SIECUS is dedicated to ensuring the sexual health and well-being of our nation's youth and people of all ages.

With the month of April dedicated to STD Awareness, April 10th recognized as National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, and the month of May dedicated to Teen Pregnancy Prevention, we acknowledge the continued need for health and sexual education for our nation's young people. I commend SIECUS for its tireless work and commitment to ensuring social justice and sexual rights for all people over the course of the past five decades.

While teen pregnancy and birth rates in the United States have declined to historic lows, the United States continues to have one of the highest teen pregnancy rates among comparable countries and pregnancy rate disparities—whether by race or geography—among young people persist. Additionally, young people are bearing the burden of new HIV incidence and other sexuality transmitted infections.

Through teacher training, policymaker education, parent and health care provider resources, and national and state partnerships, SIECUS has strived to advance comprehensive sexual education across the country to help address these alarming facts and equip young people with the information and resources they need to lead healthy lives.

Through the vision and leadership put forward by SIECUS, there have been renewed efforts to invest in effective evidence-informed, medically accurate, age-appropriate, and inclusive sexual health education over the past four years.

In my congressional district alone, efforts to support the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) has allowed the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to effectively collect and report vital student health data and